

APPENDIX H
CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT

**CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
FOR THE MARION ROAD TRUNK SANITARY SEWER PROJECT
ALTERNATIVE URBAN AREAWIDE REVIEW (AUAR)
MARION, OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

The 106 Group Project No. 01-27

**Submitted to:
Earth Tech, Inc.
3033 Campus Drive North
Suite 175
Minneapolis, MN 55441**

**Submitted by:
The 106 Group Ltd.
The Dacotah Building
370 Selby Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102**

**Principal Investigator:
Kristen Zschomler, M.A.**

**Report Authors:
William E. Stark, M.A.
Andrea Vermeer, M.A.**

May 2002

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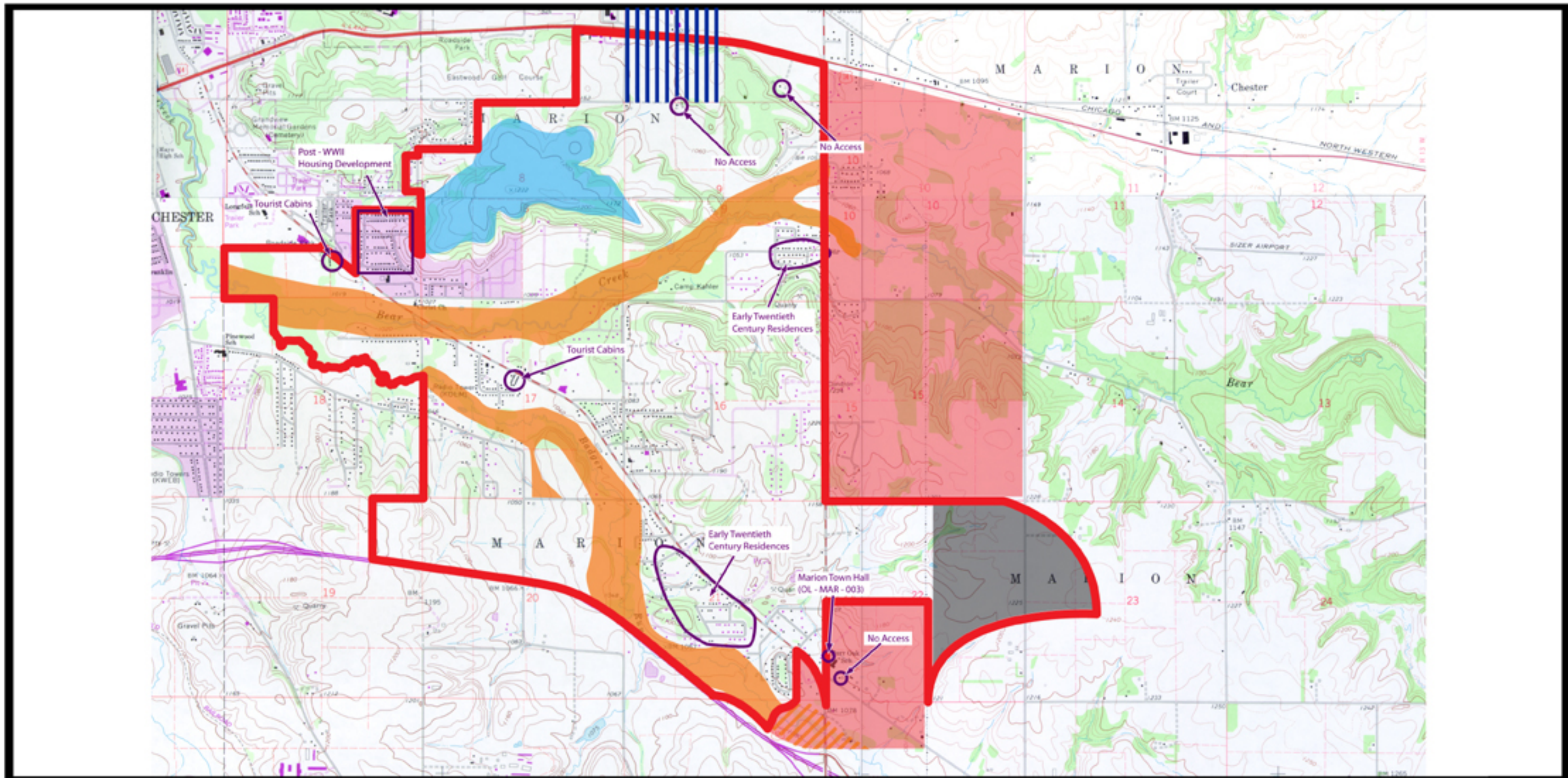
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 106 Group Ltd. conducted a cultural resources assessment of the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) project area in Marion Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota on August 7, 2001. The project was conducted under contract with Earth Tech, Inc. for the City of Rochester. The project area is located in Sections 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, and 28 of T106N, R13W (Figure 1). This report is intended to provide preliminary cultural resources information for compliance with these acts and to assist in future compliance requirements under federal and state law.

The purpose of this cultural resources assessment was to identify any historic properties within the study area of the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR that could require further investigation in order to determine their potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and to eliminate those properties that are clearly not eligible through either poor integrity or from being less than 50 years in age. In addition, the survey assessed the project area's potential for containing previously unidentified archaeological resources. Should the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR project be altered from the present proposal, the study area for architectural/historical and archaeological resources will need to be adjusted as appropriate.

The cultural resources assessment for this project included background research, a visual reconnaissance of the entire project area, assessment of archaeological potentials within the project area, and digital photographic documentation of buildings and structures 50 years of age or older within the project area. The study area for archaeological and architectural/historical resources is approximately 5,600 acres (2,266 hectares).



**MARION ROAD AUAR
CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

- AREA OF HIGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL
- AREA OF MODERATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL
- CURRENT AUAR BOUNDARY

- || REPORTED LOCATION OF THE TRAPP MOUNDS
- PART OF ORIGINAL STUDY AREA; LATER REMOVED
- ADDED STUDY AREA; NOT SURVEYED



**PROJECT LOCATION
AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

FIGURE 1

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Background Research Methods

Prior to fieldwork, background research was conducted at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in St. Paul to identify all known archaeological sites, all previously inventoried architectural and historical resources, and all previous surveys in a one-mile (1.6-kilometer [km]) radius around the project area. In addition, researchers examined the following sources: Trygg maps, Andreas Atlas of Minnesota, historic plat maps and county atlases, and aerial photographs. Project personnel are identified in Appendix A.

2.2 Archaeology Field Methods

The study area for archaeology included all areas where construction or other ground-disturbing activities related to the project might take place. The total study area is approximately 5,600 acres (2,266 hectares).

The project archaeologist conducted an assessment (windshield survey) of the project area to identify areas with moderate or high archaeological potential. Such areas were defined as the undisturbed portions of the project area:

- Within 500 ft. (150 m) of an existing or former water source of 40 acres (19 hectares) or greater in extent, or within 500 ft. (150 m) of a former or existing perennial stream;
- Located on topographically prominent landscape features;
- Located within 300 ft. (100 m) of a previously reported site; or
- Located within 300 ft. (100 m) of a former or existing historic structure or feature (such as a building foundation or cellar depression).

Areas possessing a moderate or high potential for containing intact precontact period archaeological sites are recommended for further survey work. The distance from a substantial or perennial waterway that could serve as a water source was considered in determining if the potential for archaeological sites was high or moderate. In addition, archaeologists compared historic map information with current field conditions to assess the potential within the study area for intact historical archaeological sites.

Areas defined as having a relatively low potential for containing intact archaeological resources included inundated areas, former or existing wetland areas, poorly drained areas, and areas with a 15 percent or greater slope. Low potential areas and areas in which Holocene (less than 10,000 years old) deposits have been significantly disturbed are defined as having little or no potential for containing intact archaeological resources.

2.3 Architectural History Field Methods

The study area for buildings took into account potential effects to historic resources, including physical alterations to buildings, increases in levels of noise or pollution, changes in visual or aesthetic qualities, or changes in traffic densities or patterns. To have an adverse effect, the changes would need to alter the historic characteristics of a resource or threaten the economic viability of the resource. The total study area is approximately 5,600 acres (2,266 hectares).

During the fieldwork, the project historian completed an inventory of the buildings and structures within the study area in order to identify properties that appeared to be older than 50 years. Those resources were photographed and assessed for historical integrity and significance.

3.0 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

3.1 Archaeology

In 1993, a Phase I archaeological survey for two proposed disposal sites in Rochester, Olmsted County, was conducted by Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center. During this survey, archaeologists conducted a pedestrian surface reconnaissance and shovel testing on pastures and agricultural fields adjacent to the south and west edges of the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR project area in Section 18, including the south bank of the Bear Creek in that area. No archaeological resources were identified in this area (Arzigian 1993).

Though numerous archaeological studies have been conducted in or near the City of Rochester (see, for example, Bourgerie et al. 1993; Harrison 1980; O'Mack 1991), the only three other studies to approach (but not fall within) the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR project area were a Phase I archaeological survey that included parts of Zumbro River, Bear Creek, and Cascade Creek (Strachan 1975); a Phase I archaeological survey in Bear Creek Park (Caine 1978); and a third Phase I survey, also along Bear Creek (Ryder 1982). Strachan's (1975) was the only study of these three to document any previously unrecorded archaeological sites. Along Bear Creek, Strachan encountered three artifact scatters (21OL4, 21OL6, and 21OL13) and one bone concentration (21OL9). Two of the artifact scatters, designated 21OL6 and 21OL13, fell within a one-mile radius of the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR project area. According to their site forms, both 21OL6 and 21OL13 consisted of a scatter of burnt bone and flakes, though in the case of 21OL6, historical-period ceramics were present as well. Some of the flakes at 21OL13 were worked.

One other archaeological site, the Trapp Mounds (see Figure 1), has been reported on the farmstead of Mr. Leslie Trapp, located along Highway 14 in the SW ¼ of Section 4, T106N, R13W (Wilford 1944; Oothoudt 1976). According to a memorandum (Wilford 1944) attached to a set of miscellaneous notes (Oothoudt 1976) contained in the SHPO files; however, these mounds may not exist. Wilford, the author of the memorandum, states that the mounds were declared to be in existence by George Berkins, who had died by 1944. Wilford notes, "There is a prominent ridge behind the [Trapp] farmhouse, but no obvious earthworks are on it. Two circular spots have some prominence but if they are mounds they are very low. Mr. Trapp had heard of the mounds, but had never had them pointed out to him, and these are the only spots that he thought might be mounds." Thirty-two years later, Oothoudt (1976) tried also to locate the mounds with the assistance of Mr. Trapp, but was unsuccessful. He states, "Wilford is the only person besides the landowner who claims they exist." Winchell (1911) makes no mention of a mound group in Olmsted County. Though the existence of the Trapp Mounds is suspect, the Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act, which prohibits the disturbance of burials, and the significance attributed to mounds by Native American groups require that the possible

existence of the mounds be further explored. A developer contacted the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) regarding potential development in the area where the Trapp Mounds were reported to occur (Figure 1). The State Archaeologist, Mark Dudzik, noted in his letter that it is unlikely that these mounds exist since on two separate occasions archaeologists have tried to relocate them and those attempts were unsuccessful (Appendix B). It should be noted, however, that during the two earlier attempts, it does not appear that any subsurface testing was conducted.

No other archaeological sites have been recorded in or within a one-mile (1.6 km) radius of the project area.

3.2 Architectural History

One previous survey has been conducted within one mile (1.6 km) of the project area (Bourgerie et al. 1993); however, with the exception of the statewide architectural history survey conducted in the 1970s, no surveys have been conducted within the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR project area.

A total of four properties have been inventoried within one mile (1.6 km) of the project area. One previously recorded property is within the project area. This property is the Marion Town Hall in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 22, T106N, R13W (OL-MAR-003).

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Archaeology

Valley floors and plateaus within the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR project area are fairly flat. For the most part, it is comprised of residences and plowed fields, with corn and soybeans occurring as the most common crops grown. Some portions of the project area, however, are relatively undisturbed wetlands and wooded areas, and two of the latter occur near the perennial waterways of Bear Creek and Badger Run.

The majority of the project area, based on the flat, low-lying topography of the project area, the high level of disturbance due to housing developments and agricultural activities, and the presence of wetlands, is considered to exhibit low potential to contain intact archaeological resources. Exceptions to this low potential, however, occur in three areas of the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR project area.

One area considered to exhibit moderate potential for intact archaeological resources is a relatively undisturbed area of higher elevation than the rest of the project area, to the east of Hilltop Avenue (see Figure 1). The area begins near a small wooded area that is directly adjacent to and runs the full length of Hilltop Avenue, then extends from 1½ to 2 miles to the north and east. As this area extends to the east, the woods become interspersed with cornfields. The topographically prominent and relatively undisturbed nature of this area provides some potential for intact archaeological resources, but its distance from a substantial or perennial waterway renders this potential moderate.

Two other areas are considered to exhibit high potential (see Figure 1) for intact archaeological resources. The first of these is the undisturbed wooded area that surrounds a large segment of Bear Creek to the south of the hilltop described above. Bear Creek is a sizable tributary of the Zumbro River, and along segments of the creek, archaeological sites have been previously recorded close to the current project area (Strachan 1975). The combination of the previous discovery of archaeological sites along this waterway and the low to non-existent level of disturbance in this portion of the project area suggest a high potential for the discovery of intact archaeological resources in this portion of the project area within 500 ft. of Bear Creek. This potential drops off sharply, however, as Bear Creek enters the eastern end of the project area (see Figure 1). Though USGS topographic maps for Chester (1972) and Marion (1974) depict undisturbed lands along Bear Creek throughout the project area, the eastern part of the project area has been extensively developed over the last 17-19 years. The archaeological potential along Bear Creek in the eastern end of the project area, therefore, is low.

Like the wooded area surrounding most of Bear Creek in the project area, a second wooded area surrounding a large segment of Badger Run exhibits high potential for intact archaeological resources. This area, which is south of the Bear Creek wooded area, is surrounded by agricultural fields and residences, but is itself undisturbed. Though previous archaeological studies have not incorporated Badger Run, it is close to and is a fairly large branch of Bear Creek, and it may have been encountered and used by peoples occupying the vicinity of Bear Creek. The proximity of Badger Run to Bear Creek, its perennial nature, and the lack of disturbance in the wooded area make the wooded area within 500 ft. of Badger Run one with high potential for intact archaeological resources.

Issues of potential aside, a final area to be considered is the SW ¼ of Section 4, T106N, R13W, the reported location of the Trapp Mounds (see Figure 1). Though the characteristics of this area would typically suggest a low potential for archaeological resources, the possibility that the Trapp Mounds or associated archaeological resources exist must be explored.

Following the completion of the cultural resources assessment, the AUAR boundaries were slightly modified. Sections 10 and 15 were excluded from the AUAR boundaries, and most of Section 22 and portions of Section 23 were added. These added areas were not assessed during the field visit; therefore, it is unknown if the area has the potential to contain unidentified intact archaeological sites. It is recommended that prior to any development in this area, that the developer consult with the lead federal agency or SHPO to determine if a Phase I archaeological survey would be required.

4.2 Architectural History

The 106 Group conducted a windshield survey of the entire study area. Some of the roads that have been constructed for very recent subdivisions were not surveyed, since it was determined that it would not be likely to find historical properties over 50 years of age on those roads.

As stated above, following the completion of the cultural resources assessment, the AUAR boundaries were slightly modified. Sections 10 and 15 were excluded from the AUAR boundaries, and most of Section 22 and portions of Section 23 were added. These added areas were not assessed during the field visit; therefore, it is unknown if the area has the potential to contain unidentified significant historical resources. It is recommended that prior to any development in this area, that the developer consult with the lead federal agency or SHPO to determine if a Phase I architectural history survey would be required.

4.2.1 Farmsteads

Several of the properties included farmsteads dating to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. Few farms had significant extant outbuildings associated with

historical farming practices. One farm had a large, older barn, but the house was of modern construction. Many of the older farm houses also had poor historical integrity, including the placement of alternative, modern siding or large additions (Figure 2). Three farm properties were not sufficiently visible from the road and would therefore require further inspection before an appropriate assessment could be made (Figure 3). No other farmsteads were found to retain historical integrity.



Figure 2. Farmhouse with poor integrity, SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 3



Figure 3. Farm Property, not accessible, SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 22

4.2.2 Early-Twentieth Century Non-Farm Residences

Many residences in the development on the south side of Marion Road in Section 21 and on County Road 143 in Section 9 were associated with the early-twentieth century development of this area with non-farm, residential parcels. Most of these houses are 1 or 1 ½-story bungalows (Figure 4). This housing variety was common during from 1905 to 1930. Approximately seven residences dating to the early twentieth century are present within the project area that retain good historical integrity and require further study.



Figure 4. Typical Bungalow, located on CR 143, Section 9.

4.2.3 Tourist Cabins

Two tourist cabin lodging establishments are located on the south side of Marion Road in Sections 7 and 17 (Figure 5). These early motels provided single or duplex cabin lodging arrangements in a rustic setting and are typical of the roadside lodging established for automobile travelers in the 1930s. Before the construction of Trunk Highway (TH) 52 in the late-1960s, Marion Road would have been a major approach to Rochester from the southeast and these establishments would have attracted tourists on the busy road with the standardized rooms in an attractive, rustic setting.



Figure 5. Tourist Cabins, SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 7

4.2.4 Post-World War II Housing Development

A development of more than 50 post-World War II residences on four streets is located in the western section of the project area (Figure 6). Stylistically, these houses are typical of the small, standardized and quickly built houses constructed in the late 1940s to meet the housing crisis immediately following World War II. These houses all share the same design, with only a few later infill examples varying from the established standard. Such houses, like those constructed by Bill Leavitt in Leavittown on Long Island, New York, provided affordable and badly needed housing to returning servicemen and their families by constructing identical houses cheaply and efficiently.



Figure 6. Markay Street, facing east

4.2.5 Marion Town Hall

The Marion Town Hall, located near the northeast corner of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 11 and County Road (CR) 123, is a simple, rectangular, front-gable structure clad with wood shingle siding (Figure 7). The property was previously recorded in 1979 (OL-MAR-003). The inventory form noted that the structure was possibly moved from an earlier location about 1.5 miles north. As this is one of the few public buildings in Marion Township and its date of construction unknown, further research is recommended. The design of the building is also typical of early country school houses, and it may have been used as such at one time. If it is confirmed that the property has been moved, the building would be considered not eligible for listing on the NRHP, unless it has extraordinary significance.



Figure 7. Marion Town Hall, facing northeast

Table 1. Properties Recommended for Further Study

Location	Number of Buildings	Building Types	Dates (Estimate)
Markay, Melody, Mulberry and Melrose streets	50+	Residences	Late 1940s
SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 7	Approximately 7	Tourist Cabins	1930s
SE ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 17	Approximately 13	Tourist Cabins	1930s
SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 22	1	Town Hall	c. 1900

Table 2. Properties with No Access, Requiring Further Inspection

Location	Property Type
SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 22	Farmstead
NE ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 9	Farmstead
SE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 4	Farmstead

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Archaeology

The majority of the Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project AUAR project area is considered to exhibit low archaeological potential based on the relatively flat valley floors and plateaus; disturbances by residential homes, recent development, and agriculture; and the presence of wetlands. For most of the project area, therefore, no further research is recommended.

Exceptions to this recommendation exist for four portions of the project area (see Figure 1). One is an upland area that is on a hill that is relatively undisturbed, but its distance from a substantial or perennial waterway renders its potential for intact archaeological resources moderate. Two others are wooded, undisturbed portions of the project area within 500 ft. of two perennial waterways, Bear Creek and Badger Run. Because archaeological sites have been previously recorded near other segments of Bear Creek, because Badger Run is a branch of Bear Creek and runs close to it, and because the wooded areas surrounding these waterways are undisturbed, these areas are considered to exhibit high potential for intact archaeological resources. If modifications to these three portions of the project area are planned, Phase I archaeological survey should be undertaken to determine whether intact archaeological resources will be affected.

It is recommended that future developers coordinate with the lead federal agency if there is federal involvements, or SHPO to determine if further testing is needed in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, T106N, R31W, the reported location of the Trapp Mounds. Though the existence of these mounds is questionable, (see the State Archaeologist's comments in Appendix B), since no previous subsurface testing has occurred in the area, additional survey work may be required.

5.2 Architectural History

The 106 Group surveyed properties that contain buildings older than 50 years. Approximately 11 properties are recommended for further work. Three additional properties are recommended for further investigation because they were not accessible at the time of the assessment. Many of the properties older than 50 years, particularly farm properties, have suffered from a lack of historical integrity, making them not eligible for listing on the NRHP. If redevelopment is proposed that directly affects any properties listed on, or previously determined eligible for the NRHP or the State Register of historic places coordination with SHPO is required. If any future development will require federal involvement coordination with the lead federal agency would be required to determine if additional architectural history survey work is required. The City is also considering other coordination efforts with SHPO as part of their mitigation plan.

Approximately seven early-twentieth century residences located in Section 9 and 21 are recommended for further research and documentation for their potential significance.

The grouping of small, late 1940s residences found on Markay, Melody, Mulberry and Melrose streets are recommended for further study to evaluate their potential significance for their contribution to the post-World War II housing construction.

The two tourist cabins located on the south side of Marion Road are recommended for further study to evaluate the their potential significance to roadside architecture providing services to early automobile-related tourism.

The Marion Town Hall is recommended for further study for its possible early association with the rural township governance or education. If it is confirmed that the property has been moved, the building would be considered not eligible for listing on the NRHP, unless it has extraordinary significance.

6.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: PROJECT PERSONNEL

Principal Investigator	Kristen M. Zschomler, M.A.
Senior Architectural Historian	William E. Stark, M.A.
Archaeologist	Andrea Vermeer
Report Authors and Field Surveyors	William E. Stark, M.A. Andrea Vermeer, M.A.
Graphics	John Redmann

**APPENDIX B: OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST COORDINATION
LETTER**

March 15, 2002

Tom Halloran
Five Star Homes
1700 N. Broadway, Suite 128
Rochester, MN 55906



RE: Requested information - reported possible earthworks (mounds) 21-01-x (Olmsted County/
T106N/R13W/Section 4/SW¼)

Dear Mr. Halloran,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for information on the above parcel, as well as for the information you had forwarded to me.

In brief, what exists to describe the site are third hand accounts of a possible earthwork, the precise location for which has never been known. Almost 60 years ago, Wilford visited the area, but did not identify any mounds at the locale. Some 30 years later and 26 years ago, Oothoudt revisited the area and attempted to confirm the presence of the earthworks in the company with the assistance of the landowner (Trapp, one of the original informants), also without success (contrary to Oothoudt's claim; Wilford did not claim that the mounds existed - he merely described an area that Trapp [who actually had no first hand knowledge of their location] pointed out to him). It is of note that, when both of these archaeologists visited the area, it would have been rather more "pristine" - undisturbed compared to what we would observe today.

At this time, then, we have only third hand reports of *possible* earthworks, located *somewhere* in the general area, which two archaeologists have attempted, *unsuccessfully*, to relocate when the earthworks (if such ever existed in the area) would have been more easily recognized. Further, they were never observed or reported by T.H. Lewis, who was actively recording such sites in the immediate region in the late 1800s. Therefore, it seems prudent to conclude that the likelihood of extant earthworks possibly occurring somewhere in the area (and the likelihood of relocating same) is, at best, rather limited, and not sufficient to constrain site development plans.

That said, the potential for intercepting previously unidentified burials exists *anytime* one excavates, and this is true for the above parcel as well. Should such burials, skeletal remains, or related features become evident at any point during project development, construction in the immediate area should cease, the area should be secured, and the Office of the State Archaeologist should be contacted immediately (contact local law enforcement if suspected homicide). Refer to the enclosed brochure *Burial Sites Preservation Program* for additional information.

Do not hesitate to contact me further if you require any additional information or clarification on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Dudzik
State Archaeologist

enc.

Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, MN 55111; Voice: 612.725.2411; FAX: 612.725.2427; E-mail: mark.dudzik@state.mn.us